

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 VO-05 CA-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /116 W
-----098040 071702Z /41

O 071631Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0547

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 08668

FOR HA FROM LOWMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - FAMILY REUNION FROM SRV

1. TWO UNHCR OFFICIALS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ASSISTANCE
DIVISION JACQUES CUENOD AND DARRYL HAN OF PROTECTION
DIVISION, RECENTLY VISITED HANOI. DURING THAT VISIT
DIRECTOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS VU HOANG INDICATED A WILLINGNESS
TO WORK WITH THE UNHCR ON FAMILY REUNION CASES FOR
INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO LEAVE VIETNAM TO JOIN CLOSE
RELATIVES ABROAD, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. HAN
NOTED THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS NOW BEING MADE IN FAMILY
REUNIFICATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA,
ITALY AND WEST GERMANY. CUENOD AND HAN BELIEVE THE
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SRV OFFER TO THE UNITED STATES IS A SERIOUS ONE.

2. HAN NOTES, FOR INSTANCE, THAT OFFER MAY RELATE TO
GENERAL DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES
UNDER RECENT CIRCUMSTANCES BUT ALSO AS MEANS TO CHECK
UNDESIRABLE MASS ILLEGAL EXODUS OF CHINESE RESIDENTS
FROM SOUTHERN SRV. BY PROVIDING POSSIBILITY OF

LEGAL EXIT THROUGH FAMILY REUNIFICATION ROUTE, HAN BELIEVES SOME OF PRESSURE TO ACCEPT RISKS OF ILLEGAL DEPARTURE BY BOAT MAY BE REDUCED.

3. UNHCR OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND LIMITATIONS ON USG IN ISSUING VISAS WITHOUT PRESENCE OF US CONSULAR OFFICER IN SRV. UNHCR SUGGEST WE MIGHT WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH RTG TO ALLOW THESE INDIVIDUALS TO COME OUT TO BANGKOK FOR PROCESSING BY US CONSULAR OFFICIALS. SOME SYSTEM WOULD, OF COURSE, BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE GUARANTEE THAT PERSONS ALLOWED TO LEAVE SRV WOULD BE TAKEN BY UNITED STATES IF NOT RESETTLED ELSEWHERE. NOT ONLY WOULD RTG REQUIRE SUCH A GUARANTEE, BUT ALSO THE UNHCR WHICH WOULD, IN TURN, DEAL WITH THE SRV.

4. CUENOD AND HAN INDICATED THAT THEIR DISCUSSION WITH VU HOANG SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED WITH REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAMESE WITH VIETNAMESE REFUGEE FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THE UNHCR WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST IN REUNIFICATION CASES INVOLVING RELATIVES OF US CITIZENS, THEY ASSUME USG MAY WISH TO CONTINUE TO USE ICRC CHANNEL FOR THESE CASES AT PRESENT.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT OPENING TO WHICH WE SHOULD RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHT OF ITS POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP TO THE GROWING REFUGEE CRISIS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. ONE OBVIOUS GROUP TO ASSIST WOULD BE THOSE FOR WHOM APPROVED PETITIONS EXIST. BEYOND THIS, INDIVIDUALS WITH CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD QUALIFY FOR REFUGEE PAROLE NUMBERS UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK. AN ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THE FORMER PRE-PAROLE PROCEDURES FOR CUBANS PROCEEDING TO MADRID MIGHT EVENTUALLY PROVE DESIRABLE. THE DANGERS OF PROVIDING GUARANTEES FOR UNQUALIFIED OR INELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS COULD BE REDUCED TO A NEGLIGIBLE LEVEL BY PRIOR RELATIVE VERIFICATION AND SECURITY CHECK PROCEDURES.

6. A STARTING POINT MIGHT BE WITH THE APPROXIMATELY 300 CASES OF REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAVE REQUESTED UNHCR ASSISTANCE IN GETTING RELATIVES OUT OF VIETNAM. WE SHOULD REVIEW THESE CASES TO DETERMINE FOR WHICH RELATIVES IN VIETNAM OF THESE REFUGEES WE COULD PROVIDE GUARANTEES. WE COULD THEN NOTIFY THE UNHCR OF OUR INTEREST IN PROCEEDING ON SUCH A PROGRAM AND FOR WHICH SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WE WERE REQUESTING THEIR ASSISTANCE. OBVIOUSLY, IF THE SYSTEM

WORKS, THIS WILL BECOME KNOWN AND THE UNHCR'S CASELOAD MAY BUILD RAPIDLY. IF IT DOESN'T, WE WILL HAVE AVOIDED UNNECESSARY PUBLICITY AND THE RAISING OF FALSE HOPES.

7. BEFORE WE PROCEED, WE WILL ALSO NEED TO DISCUSS SUCH PROCEDURES WITH THE RTG IN ORDER TO ARRANGE FOR THAI PERMISSION FOR TEMPORARY TRANSIT WHILE REFUGEES BEING PROCESSED BY US CONSULAR AUTHORITIES, FOR THAT RARE CASE WHICH RECEIVES A PROVISIONAL PRE-CLEARANCE BUT SUBSEQUENTLY PROVES UNQUALIFIED OR INELIGIBLE, THE UNHCR SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ITS BEST EFFORTS IN SEEKING RESETTLEMENT FOR SUCH AN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 08668

FOR HA FROM LOWMAN

INDIVIDUAL ELSEWHERE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, THE USG WOULD HAVE TO ASSURE THE RTG THAT NO VIETNAMESE GRANTED ENTRY FOR PROCESSING TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LEFT IN THAILAND. IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES AND EMBASSY BANGKOK SEES NO OBJECTION, LOWMAN WOULD PLAN TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT TENTATIVELY WITH RTG OFFICIALS DURING HIS VI SIT TO BANGKOK. VANDEN HEUVEL

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